

February 15, 2013

Veteran Coldiron
Budget Hearing Testimony Statement

Good morning, I would like to thank the panel for this opportunity to speak today. The first time I was introduced and met Mike Hall the Disable Veterans Outreach Program DVOP and the Butte Job Service staff, I had been referred for assistance in getting a summer internship. I had applied for an internship with PPL only to be notified that it had been filled. I called and made an appointment with Mike to discuss area accounting firms that may be interested in providing an internship position. Mike Hall brought me in and helped update my resume and cover letter and informed me that the local Public Defenders office in Butte had an opening for an internship and Michelle Vincent programs specialist from the Butte Job Service was the point of contact. I had an interview on June 7, 2011 and got the internship. I worked through December when I graduated with my Bachelor's degree in Accounting.

Mike informed me that the Butte Job Service offers a variety of resources in the form of printed materials, resume and cover letter software, job interview preparation, job search and monitoring local market indicators to include understanding the state's job matching process at no cost to me during my registration.

Mike Hall helped me work toward other goals during this internship like help to obtain an internship with the NAO at the VA Fort Harrison if available, looking into a direct appointment opportunity if there were any VA openings, and pursuing a possible position with the local American Federal Bank as a Loan Officer. In February, 2012 Mike Hall arranged an informational interview for me with First Citizens Bank for experience when applying for positions upon my graduation which was very helpful for interviewing for my current position at NCAT.

On April 17, 2012, Mike visited the National Center for Appropriate Technology Human Resource manager to discuss an open position and the benefits of hiring Veterans. Mike called me and later met with me to discuss the opening for NCAT accountant position advertised in the local newspaper. On April 23, 2012 I sent an email with my NCAT job application and Cover Letter for Mike to review. Mike reviewed my application and cover letter and made some suggested changes. I then carried my application into the National Center Appropriate Technology Center.

By May 2012 I had not heard back from NCAT so I then took the Microsoft Excel 2007 Normal test for other job applications. In the meantime Mike was contacting NCAT to see why I had not been contacted or my references checked. Within days of Mike's inquiries I received a second phone call from the National Center of appropriate Technology Center to see if I was still interested in the Accountant position and to come up for a second interview. I went to NCAT on Tuesday June 12, 2012 @ 4pm and had an interview with the accounting supervisor and COO. The interview went as good as the first one if not better. They (NCAT) said they wanted to get a decision by Friday June 15, 2012 but I had not heard a word and they had not even checked my references, so I wasn't sure what was going on. Mike Hall told me to stay positive, and keep myself at the front of their mind by giving the HR department a call back and offering to provide any more information they may need for selection which I did and they informed me that they were still in the selection process.

On June 20, 2012 I received an email that NCAT was offering me the Accountant position and I accepted with a start date of July 9, 2012. I am convinced that without the persistence of Veterans DVOP Mike Hall and the Butte Job Service that I would not have gotten the NCAT job. I feel that Mike went above and beyond his duties to help me and veterans could use a lot more people like him to represent us. Mike has made phone contact with me for monthly

follow-ups every month since then. I am still working for the National Center of Appropriate Technology Center today and just recently past my first audit successfully. Again thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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